

Message Text

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CINCLANT FOR POLAD

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PINT BB GJ DO

SUBJ: POLITICAL TEMPESTS BUBBLING IN THE TEAPOTS:

BARBADOS, GRENADA, DOMINICA; GOVERNMENTS AND
MEDIA DRAW BATTLE LINES OVER FREEDOM OF SPEECH
AND THE PRESS.

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH TEMPERATURE IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN
HAS BEEN NO HIGHT THAN NORMALLY FOR JUNE, INTERNAL
POLITICS OF THREE ISLANDS HAVE BEEN SIZZLING IN AN
UNUSUALLY HEATED AND UPTIGHT MANNER DURING THE PAST TWO
WEEKS. TEMPERS ARE SHORT AND RUMORS ARE RAMPANT. AL-
THOUGH NO SINGLE EVENT IS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE,
AND NOT NORMALLY WORTH A TELEGRAPHIC REPORT, AND NO
VIOLENCE CURRENTLY IN SIGHT, EACH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVE
SOME INACCURATE ATTENTION IN U. S. PRESS, AND DEPARTMENT
SHOULD HAVE FACTS. IN BARBADOS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS A VARIETY
OF RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING PRIVATELY BUT AT
ALL LEVELS OF PROPOSED CABINET CHANGES AND OTHER HIGH
LEVEL DLP DISAGREEMENTS. CONCURRENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN
RUMORS OF GREAT BLP DISSATISFACTION ABOUT LEADERSHIP
OF TOM ADAMS, LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION. WITHIN
PAST FEW DAYS RUMORS HAVE BECOME PUBLIC, PRESS FORBIDDEN
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FROM PUBLISHING THEM, AND BARBADOS PRESS ASSOCIATION HAS
LABELLED SITUATION A " NATIONAL CRISIS." GOVERNMENT OF
DOMINICA HAS DELCARED NATIONAL EMERGENCY AS RESULT OF REMOVAL
OF POPULAR NEWSCASTER AND DISC JOCKEY FOR PEDDLING HIS OWN

VIEWS. OUTGOING NEWS NOW SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP. GRENADA DECLARED PROMINENT BARBADOS ATTORNEY JACK DEAR A PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT. UNOFFICIAL REPORTS FROM GRENADA SAY ONLY GAIRY- APPROVED NEWS STORIES CAN GET OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. BARBADOS:

A. UNPUBLICIZED RUMORS INTENSIFIED FOLLOWING THE OPPOSITION' S REPLY ON JUNE 5 TO PM' S BUDGET SPEECH (BRIDGETOWN 7 98), ESPECIALLY CONCERNING TOM ADAMS' FAILURE TO RETURN FROM HIS U. S. LEADER GRANT TRIP TO PRESENT THE REBUTTAL, AND THAT AT THE LAST MOMENT BY TELEPHONE HE FORBADE EITHER ELLIOTT MOTTLEY OR HENRY FORDE, BOTH CAPABLE MEN, TO MAKE THE REPLY, BUT INSTEAD CHOSE LIONEL CRAIG. (CRAIG USED UP ONLY HALF THE TIME ALLOTTED TO HIM, AND MADE A POOR PRESENTATION BECAUSE HE IS SIMPLY NOT CAPABLE OF DOING ANY BETTER.) ACTUALLY MOTTLEY DID NOT APPEAR AT ALL FOR THE SESSION; OTHER FOUR REMAINED OUTSIDE WHEN BELL RANG FOR VOTE AND THE BLP MOTION WAS DEFEATED 15 TO 1 WITH ONLY CRAIG VOTING IN FAVOR. POPULAR RUMOR HELD ADAMS INTENDED TO " CROSS THE LINE" AND JOIN THE PM' S PARTY. ON JUNE 11, SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN, ADAMS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE, REFUTED ALL SUCH RUMORS.

B. IN MEANTIME, EMPTY WAREHOUSES AND FOOD SHORTAGES OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE IN BARBADOS, CAUSED BY INABILITY GUYANA TO SUPPLY RICE , DROUGHT IN OTHER CARIFTA COUNTRIES, ETC., WERE DESCRIBED IN PRESS BY MERCHANT LEADER SINCE PUBLIC SUSPECTED DEALERS OF HOARDING. REPORT CONTRADICTED BY MINISTER OF TRADE TAITT OVER THE WEEKEND IN A RATHER WEAK REBUTTAL. (TAITT HAS BEEN MAKING A LARGE NUMBER OF PUBLIC APPEARANCES, SOME OF WHICH HAVE NOT ENHANCED HIS OWN IMAGE.) CURRENT RUMOR ON CABINET CHANGES IS THAT TAITT WILL BE EXILED TO REPLACE TUDOR IN LONDON- TUDOR WILL RETURN " TO STUDY FOR THE MINISTRY (RELIGIOUS) AT CODRINGTON COLLEGE" AND THAT MINISTER OF HEALTH CADDLE, PRESENTLY HAVING HIS TROUBLES WITH THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, WILL BE MADE MINISTER OF TRADE.

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C. COMBINATION OF ALL THIS HIT THE FAN WHEN A NEWS ANNOUNCER ON CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORP. (RADIO AND TV), ATTEMPTING CHECK OUT RUMORS, AFTER CALLING A GOVERNMENT MINISTER WHO HAD NO COMMENT, PUBLICIZED SOME RUMORS OF POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES (NOT INCLUDING THE TUDOR RUMOR) ABOUT JUNE 8. GOB INFURIATED, ASKED CBC FEPORTERS TO SIGN A PLEDGE NOT TO DO SUCH A THING AGAIN. CBC, ONE OF WHOSE THREE DIRECTORS IS PETER MORGAN, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM, ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS JUNE 11 TO ITS NEWSCASTERS FORBIDDING THEM TO CONTACT MINISTERS DIRECTLY, TO REFRAIN FROM REPORTING RUMORS, TO CONFINE THEMSELVES TO POSITIVE MATTERS AND FURTHER TO CLEAR ANY GOVERNMENT- CONNECTED STROY FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES,

SUCH AS REUTERS, WITH GOVERNMENT INFO SERVICE. IF STORY NOT CLEARED, MUST NOT BE PUBLISHED. IF MINISTER GAVE INFO, BUT ASKED NOT TO BE QUOTED, STORY MUST NOT BE USED AT ALL.

D. EXECUTIVES OF BARBADOS PRESS ASSOCIATION HEADED BY ROBERT BEST, EDITOR OF THE ADVOCATE, MET SATURDAY EVENING JUNE 15 AND AT 11:30 PM DELIVERED A LETTER TO MORGAN REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF INSTRUCTIONS, AN INSULT TO THEIR PROFESSION, WITHIN 48 HOURS. MORGAN REQUESTED THEM TO MEET IN HIS OFFICE AT 11:00 A. M. MONDAY, BUT WAS CALLED INTO THE PM'S OFFICE, WHILE BPA LEADERS COOLED THEIR HEELS UNTIL 12:00 AND THEN DEPARTED. MORGAN OFFERED PUBLIC APOLOGY OVER TV AND RADIO MONDAY NIGHT, 18 TH, FOR HIS ABSENCE, BUT ISSUED STATEMENT TUESDAY, 19 TH, A. M. REJECTING BPA "ULTIMATUM" TO HIM. BPA ISSUED ANOTHER STATEMENT TODAY 20 TH, POINTING OUT THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF FREEDOM OF JOURNALISTS TO CHECK OUT RUMORS, NOT FORGETTING TO POINT OUT THAT IT WAS THE "ALERTNESS OF TWO REPORTERS WHICH BROUGHT THE 'WATERGATE AFFAIR' FROM THE STAGE OF MERE RUMOR, INTO THE OPEN FOR ALL THE PUBLIC TO KNOW." ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD "TRY" TO SEE THE PM, AND ALSO TAKE THEIR CASE TO THE IAPA. COMMENT: BELIEVE MEDIA PEOPLE HERE HAVE NOW DECIDED TO PUBLISH ALL RUMORS AS DOES THE U. S. PRESS, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE FEELINGS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND AS ONE OF THEM STATED, "TO TAKE UP INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING." BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN.

2. DOMINICA: STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN DOMINICA FRIDAY, JUNE 15, AFTER WEEK OF DEMONSTRATIONS, STRIKES, FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TRANSFER OUT OF GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DOMINICA RADIO OF POPULAR NEWSCASTER AND DISC JOCKEY DANIEL CAULDEIRON, KNOWN AS "PAPA DEE," TO LESS SENSITIVE ASSIGNMENT WITH CIVIL SERVICE. CAULDEIRON, ACCUSED BY PREMIER LEBLANC, OF PROMOTING OWN PECULIAR SOCIAL-POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (BLACK POWER) DURING NEWS REPORTS AND OTHER PERIODS ON THE AIR. STATE OF EMERGENCY STILL IN EFFECT - RADIO DOMINICA OPERATING FEW HOURS PER DAY WITH SKELETON FORCE. TODAY WORKERS OTHER THAN CIVIL SERVANTS RETURNED TO JOBS. REUTERS CENSORED REPORT PUBLISHED HERE 19 TH A. M. STATED NO NEWS REPORTS COULD NOW BE SENT FROM DOMINICA WITHOUT CABINET APPROVAL. NO VIOLENCE. DOMINICANS APPEAR TO BE TAKING WHOLE THING RATHER LIGHTLY. THIS CONFIRMED IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DOMINICA CHIEF OF POLICE.

3. GRENADA: LEADING ATTORNEY IN BARBADOS, JACK DEAR, WAS ON FRIDAY DECLARED A PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT IN GRENADA BECAUSE HE HAD ACTED AS LEGAL ADVISOR FOR THE GNP OPPOSITION GROUP AT THE LONDON INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE ON THE BASIS THAT HE HAD INTERFERED IN THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF GRENADA. DEAR RESPONDED IN AN EXCELLENT TAPE-RECORDED STATEMENT FOR THE

PRESS OVER WEEKEND CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF ATTORNEYS TOWARD
THEIR CLIENTS AND INDICATING THAT AFTER ACCEPTING LEGAL
ADVICE, " SINCE IT IS TRADITIONAL THAT NO LAWYER EVER
ADVISES HIMSELF" HE WILL APPEAL GRENADA' S DECISION. CON-
TINUING REPORTS FROM GRENADA RE BEATINGS GAIRY' S OPPONENTS;
SUPPRESSION OF FREE PRESS THERE.
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